



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

July 11, 2016

5:30 p.m. - Basement, Thorman Conference Room
801 Texas Ave., City Bldg. 3, El Paso, Texas

Minutes

Members Present: 4

District 2 – Steve Lujan
District 5 – Theresa Welch Fordham
District 6 – Françoise A. Feliberti
District 7 – Sylvia Carreon

City Staff Present

Tracy Novak, Director of Parks and Recreation
Joel McKnight, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Paula Powell, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director
Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant
Elsa Ramirez, Senior Secretary
Gloria Venzor, Architectural Intern
Enrique Valadez, Recreation and Sports Coordinator

Public Present

Brent Pearson, Tree Arborist

Members Absent: 3

District 3 – Deanna A. De La Cruz
District 4 – Roy Gilyard
District 8 – Ana Roush

Vacancies: 2

Mayor – Vacant
District 1 – Vacant

City Attorney - Legal

Juan Gonzalez, Assistant City Attorney

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order
Theresa Welch Fordham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.
2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: June 13, 2016
Motion by Steve Lujan to approve minutes as written, seconded by Sylvia Carreon. Motion carried (unanimous).
3. Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)
None
4. Agenda Item #4. Update and Discussion: Facility Maintenance Activities – Victor Rivera, Facilities Maintenance Superintendent
Victor Rivera, Facilities Maintenance Superintendent, reported on the following items:

- Accomplished renovating the Armijo Recreation Center stairwell. This has been a problem for years and finally removed and replaced stair treads.
- Caught up with athletic field lighting for the games. Are about 8% complete and should be completely done in about two weeks.
- Repairs and replacement of playground equipment have been completed.
- Painted the Thomas Manor Shelter. Looking to do more facilities as funds are available.
- At Wellington Chew, retiling the main hall, as part of the overall improvements that include HVAC and restroom renovations.

5. Agenda Item #5. Update and Discussion: July is National Parks and Recreation Month – Enrique Valadez, Recreation and Sports Coordinator

Enrique Valadez, Recreation and Sports Coordinator, reported on the following:

Enrique Valadez passed out the flyer of July events for Board to review and mentioned the biggest event was the 4th of July celebration. A discussion was held with the Board in regards to events.

Steve Lujan asked if there were any problems with the event. Enrique Valadez said no problems arose from this event and everything went well. They are hoping to make it bigger and better next year.

Sylvia Carreon made a comment that the sound system was massive and great.

Francoise A. Feliberti asked a question about the scheduling of events on the 23rd and 29th.

Theresa Welch Fordham made a comment that she has seen a lot more advertising for the Park events which is great.

6. Agenda Item #6. Update and Discussion: Playground and Canopy Projects – Gloria Venzor, Architectural Intern

Gloria Venzor, Architectural Intern, reviewed playground and canopy projects. This citywide program was completed March 8th and was approved for \$2,002,000.00. We are going to have 17 parks with new playgrounds. The project is being divided into three groups.

Group #1: Blackie Chesher, Carolina, Yucca, Dick Shinaut, Colonia Verde, Franklin, and Wellington Chew

Group #2: Pueblo Viejo, Madeline, Mundy, Irwing J. Lambka, Lincoln, Delta WWII

Group #3: Mission Hills, Hawkins, Coyote, and Ventanas Destiny

The time schedule for completion for Group 1 is December 2016, for Group 2 by February 2017, and Group 3 by May 2017.

She reported the Shade/Canopy Program was approved for \$1.5 million dollars for canopies throughout the city; it was approved January 26, 2016 and for the funds fiscal year 2017 to 2020. For fiscal year 2017, we have canopies over playgrounds for Coyote Park, Wilderness Park, Vista del Valle, and Marty Robbins.

Tracy Novak mentioned that these were for the playgrounds with the exception of Wilderness Park; it is to replace a shade shelter canopy. It was a standalone shelter in the park.

Theresa Welch Fordham asked about the rest of the playgrounds, are we going to have to get more money to put canopies over other playgrounds.

Tracy Novak mentioned that we currently have 134 playgrounds and about 35 of those currently have canopies over them. So about 30% of the playgrounds have canopies, with the total that are scheduled to be done we will be up to about 40%. Yes, we are behind in terms of getting all of them.

Theresa Welch Fordham asked, “What are they guaranteeing them for or what is the life span on these canopies?”

Tracey Novak said the canopies would last eight to ten years. The metal ones would last longer but what they are trying to do is cover as many playgrounds as possible. Fabric canopies cost less than metal canopies therefore we are providing more shade. A metal canopy would last 20-25 years.

On the playgrounds, a condition assessment was completed of all of our playgrounds giving an A was brand new, B is in good shape with no problems, C has some minor repairs, and D has recommended replacement. When presented to Council, they provided funding to replace all the C- & D rated playgrounds. So we won't have any more D rated playgrounds when this is all completed and we also had something called the C- which was a C rated playground that had multiple problems warranting replacement. There are 15 replacement playgrounds and 2 brand new constructed because District 5 has a lack of playgrounds. We are making progress from where we had been, council is supportive of playgrounds and canopies.

Gloria is the project manager and Joel is supporting her and making sure to get all these projects completed.

Francoise A. Feliberti asked if picnic tables will be considered for replacement.

Tracy Novak said all the condition assessments completed include amenities: picnic tables, benches and trash cans and we shared that information with City Council. City Council will determine whether funding can come our way to address those issues. We have requested additional funds in our budget to address some of those items. Council is facing a long list of needs and not enough funding to address everything while they try and balance impact on the taxpayer. The first step is informing Council of the current condition of the parks.

A discussion went on amongst Board members regarding obtaining funding from the City.

Point of Order: Juan Gonzalez, cautioned the Board regarding having discussions on items that are not posted on the agenda and finances.

7. Agenda Item #7. Subcommittees:

- a. Update and Discussion: Tree Subcommittee – Review List of Potential Members – Joel McKnight, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Joel McKnight, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, mentioned that after the last meeting staff contacted potential members to invite to become members of the Tree Subcommittee. Brent Pearson, Arborist, did all of the contacts.

Brent Pearson addressed the Board and told them that he contacted the people. They were all excited and honored and had a very positive response. There was an issue with one of the potential subcommittee members that needs to be cleared through Legal. There may be additional names and/or suggestions for other potential members. He asked Legal to determine if potential members need to live within El Paso city limits.

8. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Title 13 – Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places; Chapter 13.24 City Parks and Recreation Areas, Section 13.24.050-Use of athletic fields – Paula Powell, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director.

Paula Powell, Assistant Park and Recreation Director, went over with Board proposed changes to the ordinance. The ordinance changes expands the scope of permit required fields.

Motion to forward the proposal to City Council made by Sylvia Carreon, seconded by Steve Lujan. Motion carried (unanimous).

9. Agenda Item #9. Subcommittee Assignments (as needed)
None

10. Agenda Item #10. Reports on Recent Activity
- a. Recent City Council Agenda Items
 - b. Upcoming Committee Meetings List
 - c. Land Acquisition List
 - d. Parks and Recreation Construction Projects List

None

11. Agenda Item #11. Discussion: Identify Items for Future Agendas

Theresa Welch Fordham brought up the item of cluster of cars at parks parking on grass during the 4th of July. Would like this item placed on next agenda for discussion on violations and enforcement.

Tracy Novak mentioned a handout Paula Powell wanted to give to Board members regarding the Sue Young Spray Park Grand Opening on Saturday, July 30th.

Motion to adjourn made by Sylvia Carreon.

Francoise A. Feliberti requested to discuss item on agenda under #10. Since the item had been brought up and nobody had made any comments on it, the Board moved on to item #11.

A motion to reconsider motion to adjourn made by Francoise A. Feliberti, and seconded by Sylvia Carreon. Motion carried (unanimous).

Francoise A. Feliberti asked questions on the following items in the CIP Active Project Status:

- a. Page 1 – Francoise A. Feliberti asked about extension of street. Tracy Novak said this was a TxDOT project and could not answer this question.
- b. Page 9 – Francoise A. Feliberti asked about East Cave Park. Tracy Novak said an update would be provided to her on this item.
- c. Page 9 – Francoise A. Feliberti asked about Eastside Sports Complex’s delay in design schedule. Tracy Novak said there was an adjustment to original design that didn’t include some of the fields and we would like to have full use of area requested by Paula Powell.
- d. Page 9 – Francoise A. Feliberti asked for address of Ylarim Ruby Morga Park CDBG 41. Tracy Novak said it would be sent to her.
- e. Page 10 – Francoise A. Feliberti asked about the Adrian Garcia Park. Tracy Novak said there is a question on area of extension of linear parkway. The water district is stating that we cannot use this area. Tracy will obtain an update to provide.
- f. Page 10 – Francoise A. Feliberti asked about the Pueblo Viejo Park. Tracy Novak said it was either playgrounds or canopies to be worked on.
- g. Page 12 – Francoise A. Feliberti asked about Travis White. Tracy Novak said there was no funding associated with this project and funding is currently being sought to repair the wall.

12. Adjournment – 6:58 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Elsa Ramirez, Senior Secretary